

REMARKS

The Specification and the Abstract for the above-identified application have been amended to correct grammatical and typographical errors. A marked-up version of the Specification and Abstract is submitted as "Attachment A - Marked-Up Version of Specification and Abstract." Entry of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested.

Dated: August 21, 2001

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marylee Jenkins", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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ATTACHMENT A – MARKED-UP VERSION OF SPECIFICATION AND

ABSTRACT

This is an attachment showing the marked-up version of the Specification and the Abstract.

In the Specification

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 1, line 23 and ending at page 2, line 3 as follows:

-- Furthermore, a retrieval system, publication of various information, etc., have been widely performed through the Internet.

On the other hand, enterprises have designed their own computer systems for managing their intellectual property such as patents, utility models, etc. In most of the systems, data of bibliographic information such as the filing date, the application number, etc., for a patent is managed by databases, etc., retrieved, and displayed for necessary term management, etc. --.

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 6, line 21 and ending at page 7, line 1 as follows:

-- FIG. 21 shows an example of [an] OA machines and devices provided for the intellectual property right acquirement support section 106;

FIG. 22 shows a cover page of a facsimile;

FIG. 23 is a flowchart of the flow of the process of receiving the facsimile;

FIG. 24 is a flowchart of the flow of the process of receiving the facsimile;

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 8, line 18 and ending at page 8, line 22 as follows:

-- In FIG. 1, reference numeral 107 denotes the head office of an enterprise performing economic activities such [a] as research, development, production, sales, etc., and includes a section for managing the intellectual property such as a patent, etc. --.

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 8, line 27 and ending at page 9, line 19 as follows:

-- The document server 116 includes a document DB (database) for management of a file wrapper, etc., containing the electronically generated documents, a series of documents generated in the communications between server 116 and Patent Office. The management server 117 contains bibliographic information such as an application number, a patent number, a filing date, a registration date, etc., and a management DB for management of the term of the office action of Patent Office. The server 118 contains a general purpose DB storing a specific publication of the Japanese Patent Office, US. Patent Office, etc., and related information. The server 119 configures an application system for management of a work described later, and [other] another database (for example, a database of cited documents). The server 120 integrally manages the document servers 116 to 119, and controls the entire intellectual property information management system. In the embodiment described below, a 'system' refers to a system managed by the server 120. --.

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 11, line 26 and ending at page 12, line 11 as follows:

-- Reference numeral 111 denotes a plurality of external companies for cooperatively [perform] performing research and development with the enterprise group 110. They manage the products of the cooperative research and development based on the mutual contract, and acquire a patent right. The system can transmit and receive data through the Internet.

Reference numeral 112 denotes a plurality of domestic firms related to intellectual property located in Japan. Reference numeral 113 denotes a plurality of overseas firms related to intellectual property. They can communicate with each other through the above mentioned dedicated line or the Internet. --.

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 18, line 16 and ending at page 18, line 25 as follows:

-- Furthermore, the contents of the electronic file wrapper 412 formed in the document server 116 can be a document 413 for each case, an inspection document 414 such as the patent information of third parties, a cited document 415 referenced in an examination by Patent Office for a case. However, the cited document 415 can be stored in a DB on another server 119 as described above, and can be easily retrieved on the screen for access to the case through [the] an HTML link [of the HTML]. --.

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 22, line 1 and ending at page 22 line 11 as follows:

-- In (1) and (2) above, the system manages the work flow to automatically transferring the case. On the other hand, a person receiving the case transfers the case to a target person at his or her own discretion according to the in-house rule. From the viewpoint of the automation of a process, the former excels, but has the demerit that it cannot flexibly perform a process in an organization. According to the present embodiment, the system supports both, thereby flexibly operating the system depending on the type and situation of the type of action and section. --.

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 22, line 14 and ending at page 23, line 2 as follows:

-- For example, (1) is the example 1 of an approval form, and shows the path of the transfer of an action case from the inventor A to the head A through the chief G, the manager E, the head C, the staff F, the chief D, the manager C, the head B, the staff A, the chief A, and the manager A. For example, approving and accepting an invention proposal document correspond to this pattern. (2) is the example 2 of an approval form, and shows the path of the transfer of an action case from the inventor A directly to the staff A. For example, checking an application original, answering [in] an urgency, etc., correspond to this pattern. (3) is the example 3 of a study request form, and shows the

case in which an action case is transferred from the inventor A to the final person for approval with arbitrary destinations sequentially specified. --.

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 23, line 23 and ending at page 24, line 2 as follows:

-- These path patterns are registered in the server 119 so that the work flow management can be smoothly controlled. Furthermore, by setting the path pattern as a table, the work flow of an action case can be easily changed only by changing the table. In this table, patterns of a destination-designated arbitrary path can be defined as A000 and B000. --.

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 24, line 7 and ending at page 24, line 15 as follows:

-- For example, the development section A selects A001 as [a] an action study path pattern, and selects B001 as a study approval path pattern. Otherwise, the staff A selects A001 as an action study path pattern, and B005 as a study approval path pattern. Using the pattern selection table, the customization by section or by staff can be realized. In addition, a pattern table or a selection table can be used for each type of action case. --.

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 28, line 24 and ending at page 29, line 1 as follows:

-- In a method of using the above mentioned action case, typically a person who has received the action case 1601 assigns the number 1602 to the case and [pass] passes it to the next person as 1603 as it is as shown in (1) of FIG. 16. --.

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 31, line 20 and ending at page 31, line 24

-- The above mentioned work flow is managed by the system, and the studying person [input] inputs the next studying person (approver), pushes the transmission button, thereby performing the system registration and mail transmission. --.

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 34, line 3 and ending at page 34, line 7 as follows:

-- The ideal form of the entire system is the totally online system as in the first embodiment as described above. However, there can arise an environment in which electronic mail and the Web temporarily cannot be used. --.

Rewrite the paragraph starting on page 35, line 4 and ending at page 35 line 9 as follows:

-- At this time, [in an urgency] when urgent (when the term of an answer comes soon, etc.), a transmitter performs facsimile communications to the urgency exclusive line 2109 in a plurality of lines, and uses a sheet as shown in FIG. 22 as a cover page of the facsimile communications. --.

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 37, line 23 and ending at page 38, line 6 as follows:

-- On the other hand, if the action case has not been opened (NO in S2307), in S2308, reminder mail is transmitted to the staff in the intellectual property right acquirement support section and the boss of the staff of the intellectual property right acquirement section, and the staff in the intellectual property right acquirement support section or the boss of the staff of the intellectual property right acquirement section forcibly claims back the action case in S2309, and re-transmits the action case to another staff or [process] processes it by himself or herself. --.

Rewrite the paragraph starting on page 42, line 24 and ending on page 43, line 2 as follows:

-- 5. About the action case occurring by urgent facsimile, the action case is painted in the same color as 3 above regardless of whether or not the action case has been 'opened' to visually remind the boss of the staff in the intellectual property right acquirement section of the action case. --.

Rewrite the paragraph starting on page 43, line 15 and ending at page 43, line 18 as follows:



-- By providing the above mentioned access check tool, the third party can issue a reminder or perform a process when a error arises in the mail or the staff misses the mail in a network environment, etc. --.

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 46, line 3 and ending at page 46, line 21 as follows:

-- FIG. 29 shows a list of related documents for each case number (case). Reference numeral 2901 denotes a case number, that is, the reference number of the application of the company in each country. In this example, a five-digit number is followed by alphabetical character identifying a country. Reference numeral 2902 denotes a family number indicating an application group practically equivalent in the [contents] content of the application. Reference numeral 2903 denotes a filed country. In this case, there are the applications of US (the United States), EP (Europe), AU (Australia), and JP (Japan). Reference numeral 2904 denotes a document list relating to the US patent application of the case number 12345US, and has been cited mainly in the examination by US Patent Office. --.

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 46, line 22 and ending at page 47, line 20 as follows:

-- In each document number, items such as a source, an obtaining date, a summary, a point of rejection, a differentiation point in the present application, etc., are displayed. Reference numeral 2905 displays all related documents of the family (in this case, US, EP, AU, and JP) of the case. In this example, four cases except the US case, that is,

'DE1200001' in the EP case, 'USP123456' in the AU case, 'USP123456' in the CA case, and Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. '06-12345' in the JP case, are cited. The source (for example), a search report (SR), the obtaining date, the summary, etc., of each case are displayed. Furthermore, the IDS information indicating whether or not the IDS (information disclosure procedure) has been completed in the U.S. (US) and China (CN) is displayed together. The IDS information can be displayed by one flag with US combined with CN as shown in FIG. 29. US and CN can have respective information and can be displayed independently.

Thus, the related documents can be displayed for each family, and the status of the IDS of the related documents can be displayed, thereby preventing the omission of the IDS, easily considering documents cited in the examinations in other countries for acquirement of a patent right, and efficiently acquiring effective [right] rights. --.

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 49, line 18 and ending at page 50, line 11 as follows:

-- Reference numeral 3201 denotes the case number of the present case. Reference numeral 3202 denotes the names of the staffs in the development right acquirement support section and the intellectual property right acquirement section and their access addresses. Reference numeral 3203 denotes the summary of the present case. Reference numeral 3204 denotes an approval stamp. Reference numeral 3205 denotes the type of office action. Reference numeral 3206 denotes a product of the company, the execution plan of the company, and the products of other companies in which the invention of the

case is implemented. Reference numeral 3207 denotes comments of the studying persons in the development section and the development right acquirement support section.

Reference numeral 3208 denotes a list of the documents cited in the case. The list shows the items of a flag indicating whether or not the document has been disclosed by the prior art in US and CN, the summary of the cited document, the portion corresponding to the notice of reasons for rejection, and the differentiation point. --.

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 52, line 20 and ending at page 52, line 24 as follows:

-- For example, for the item 'reference number', the attribute is an alphanumeric character, a person who [input] inputs data and a checker [belong] belonging to the clerical section, and the note indicates that data input is required. --.

#### In the Abstract

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 64, line 2 and ending at page 64, line 12 as follows:

An information processing apparatus is provided [To provide an information processing apparatus] for efficiently managing documents and various procedures related to a patent application[.] with information [Information] related to a patent application [is] being accumulated in a database for each case, and managed for a due date[. When] so that when an inventor has to study a case, a request to study the case is issued to the inventor through a network, and the state of the study by the inventor is checked through

the network. Furthermore, related prior art is managed in a database, thereby efficiently filing an application with the Patent Office. --.